FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 JANUARY 1986

Libya

The Arab League Council condemned U.S. "provocations" against Libya, expressed solidarity with Libya against the U.S. economic blockade, and called on the Arab countries to support Libya and press for a UN Security Council meeting to investigate the U.S. "threats" against the Jamahiriyah, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio reported. However, sources at the conference in Tunis cited by AFP pointed out that the Council failed to impose retaliatory economic measures against the United States because a majority of the Arab states opposed radical action. During the meeting the Libyan foreign liaison secretary withdrew Libya's proposal for an Arab economic boycott of the United States, telling delegates that the Arab countries should decide what measures to adopt, according to KUNA. A Rabat radio report on the meeting noted that only eight Arab foreign ministers attended the session and that other Arab states were represented by their ambassadors to the Arab League.

In another diplomatic development, a Saudi envoy conveyed a message from King Fahd to Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, Tripoli television reported. In Damascus, a Libyan envoy delivered a message from Col al-Qadhdhafi to President Hafiz al-Asad, who stressed Syria's support for Libya against U.S. "threats," according to Damascus television. In further Libyan reaction to the Space Shuttle explosion, Col al-Qadhdhafi sent a cable of condolences to the dead astronauts' families, telling them that the astronauts were "victims of imperialist greed," JANA noted.

Jordan Valley, Jerusalem Attacks

A caller from Beirut told AFP that Sabri al-Banna's Fatah-Revolutionary Council was responsible for the 29 January attack on IDF soldiers in the Jordan Valley. The PLO claimed responsibility for killing the Israeli "intelligence officer" in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio.

PDRY

A Supreme People's Council Presidium statement broadcast by Aden radio called for the trial of "conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his adventurous gang," but urged "misled" citizens who have left the country to return and live in security and peace. The statement, issued at the end of a Presidium session chaired by Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, also called for efforts to repair damage caused in the fighting and appealed to "fraternal and friendly countries" for aid and support. The YAR president's "constructive" stand was praised by the Presidium, which stressed that the PDRY will continue to consolidate relations with the YAR leadership in order to reunite Yemen on a peaceful and democratic basis.

As for the situation in Abyan Governorate, the radio noted that foreign journalists toured the area 29 January to view the "stable situation" there and ascertain the results of the "massacres" committed by 'Ali Nasir's "criminal gangs." An ANA commentary cited by the radio said that 'Ali Nasir has escaped abroad to join "counterrevolutionary" forces, adding that the former leader is broadcasting from an "external" radio station. In Riyadh, a South Yemeni envoy delivered a message from 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to Saudi King Fahd, SPA noted. Meanwhile, an Ethiopian press article reviewed by Addis Ababa radio deplored "completely improper" attempts to depict 'Ali Nasir as a collaborator with "reactionary circles."

FBIS DAILY REPORT

South Asia

CONTENTS

Vol VIII No 021 *31 January 1986*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Karmal Interviewed by Foreign Journalists ..... C 1
Karmal Cited on 'Limited Soviet Contingent' ..... C 9

INDIA

Sikh Convention Summoned to Discuss Temple Situation ..... E 1
Sentencing Procedures Questioned in Gandhi Trial ..... E 1
Further Details *[AFP]* ..... E 1

PAKISTAN

Junejo Speech Promotes Education, Democracy ..... F 1
Noorani on Maritime Boundary Demarcation with India ..... F 1
JANG Comments on Security After Martial Law *[25 Jan]* ..... F 1
Attempt To Smuggle Missiles into Kurram Agency Foiled ..... F 2
Afghan Mujahidin Shoot Down MiG, Helicopters ..... F 2

OTHER COUNTRIES

BANGLADESH

Opposition Parties Demonstrate Against Martial Law *[Delhi]* ..... G 1

MALDIVES

UAE Paper: President Hails Relations With Arabs *[WAKH]* ..... G 1

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Seeks Military Solution to Terrorism ..... G 1
Government Responds to TULF Proposals on Ethnic Issue *[Delhi]* ..... G 1
Further Reportage on Curfew in Plantation Areas *[AFP]* ..... G 1
Security Forces Capture Weapons in Tricomalee ..... G 1

IRAN

Friday Imam Urges OPEC Unity To Defeat U.S. 'Plot' ..... I 1
Larijani Begins Tour of Oil-Producing Countries ..... I 1
Further Reportage on Islamic Thought Conference ..... I 1
Fadlallah, Others Address Meeting ..... I 1
Lebanon's Shams al-Din Comments on Israeli Aims ..... I 2
Commentary Views Murphy's Talks With Peres, Husayn ..... I 2
New Envoy Holds Meeting with French Foreign Minister ..... I 2
Kurds Attack Iraqi Posts Following Comrades' Deaths ..... I 2
Irbil Area Attacked ..... I 3
Islamic Guards Corp To Hold War Game ..... I 3
Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq ..... I 3
Communique No 2,366 ..... I 3

Karmal Interviewed by Foreign Journalists
LD291203 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 29 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, January 28, BAKHTAR — The following is the text of interview by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, president of the Revolutionary Council of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, granted to foreign journalists.

Elizabeth Hidbourge — Sweden: You have recently broadened your government to include 10 ministers who are not party members. [Words indistinct] the reason for doing this? What result do you hope to reach?

Nikkila — Finland: What are the reasons for the enlargement of the social bases of the Revolutionary Council and other leading bodies. Has that process already ended?

GDR radio-TV correspondent: Under the present conditions, the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan considers as one of the basic questions the broadening of the social basis of the revolution. What measures have been adopted or will be adopted in this regard?

Musafer, *AL-ANBA'*, Kuwait: It is known that the Afghan Government is trying to include in its ranks influential persons from different strata of the people. How many of such people have become ministers? What is the position of the PDPA vis-a-vis the new composition of the government?

Answer: On the basis of the declaration of the Revolutionary Council (RC) of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan dated 9 November 1985 concerning the expansion of the social basis of the revolution, the composition of the RC and the Council of Ministers of the DRA were expanded. The credible popular representatives reflecting the interests of social strata and groups, were newly included therein. The concrete results of this decision would be the ever expansion of the social bases of the revolution, i.e., the ever-greater attraction of the national patriotic forces for a broad country-wide cooperation on the basis of the interests of the entire peoples, national interests and for the implementation of the tasks and aspirations of the glorious April Revolution in building a new and democratic Afghanistan. On the other hand, these measures reflect the increasing confidence and the sense of cooperation of the people towards the revolutonary power.

Tom Higon — REUTER: Why did you decide to broaden the base of your government only in these two past months then, for example, two years ago? Is this related to Geneva talks, a change of policy in Kabul and Moscow or a new development in domestic politics?

Answer: The expansion of the social bases of the revolutionary power in the DRA emanates from the national and democratic character of the April Revolution. Our party as the guiding force of the society and the leading force behind the revolutionary transformations in the DRA has always paid constant attention to the question of the participation of the toiling classes and strata of the country in the state organs of the DRA. With triumph of the new and revolutionary phase of the revolution, the National Fatherland Front (NFF) of the DRA as the manifestation of the unity and cohesion of all the toiling classes and strata of the country was set up which is playing a significant role in growth and development of the revolutionary process in the DRA and the consolidation and expansion of the social bases of the revolution.

The NFF, covering tens of social and mass organizations on behalf of the toiling classes and strata of the DRA, has already taken part in administrating the affairs of the country and the decision-making process concerning the destiny of the homeland.

The extended, extraordinary session of the RC of the DRA, on 9 November 1985, once again assessed the revolutionary process in the country and pointed out the national-democratic character of the April Revolution and its urgent tasks under the present conditions.

During the recent years we have scored great victories in the sphere of consolidating the achievements of the revolution. Today our people, making use of the genuine democracy, elect their representatives for administering the affairs from the level of villages to that of provinces. The capability of the PDPA in the political leadership of the society has increased and the state of the DRA, manifesting the true will of the working masses of the DRA, enjoys growing credibility in the national and international arena. Spectacular socio-economic transformations have been and are being materialized throughout the country.

In comparison to the past, the situation of the country has changed and the time has ripened for the expansion of the social bases of the government and that of the RC.

To sum up, the recent measures in this sphere emanate from the national democratic character of the April Revolution and any other interpretation of these measures demonstrate the lack of understanding of the character of the April Revolution in the DRA.

Tom Higon: You have been bringing non-party members more and more into the government. [Words indistinct] mean the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan could eventually lose its leading role and become a partner in some kind of popular front?

Answer: The ever-wider participation of the patriotic and credible non-party social figures in the leading organs of the DRA state demonstrate the profound confidence of the masses of the people in the [words indistinct] and its correct policy for leading the revolution in our society. The great revolutionary achievements of the working people of Afghanistan have brought about new conditions for the further realization and expansion of the tasks an lofty aspirations of the national-democratic April Revolution in which the innovative role of the PDPA is quite clear. The ever increasing mobilization of the national and patriotic forces in the implementation of progressive transformations is the undelayable task of the present stage of the revolution. This [words indistinct] takes its roots from the lawful development of our society.

The implementation of the [words indistinct] socio-economic transformation in our country once again proves that the PDPA, as the sole vanguard force of the working class and all the toiling masses of the DRA, has and will have in future too the great historic mission of leading our society and revolution. This is the mission which the history has trusted on the PDPA.

Czechoslovak radio, TV correspondent: What are the conditions for the solution of the so-called the question of Afghanistan?

Answer: The beginning, continuation and intensification of armed intervention and other forms of interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran constitute the basic cause of the situation created around Afghanistan. Soon after the April national-democratic revolution in Afghanistan counter-revolutionary bands were created in Pakistan and Iran, particularly in Pakistan, by international imperialism, U.S. imperialism at the head, Chinese hegemonism and the reaction of the region and intervention against our revolutionary country was [words indistinct]. Right now counter-revolutionary bandits are trained, equipped and armed in more than 120 military training camps in Pakistan, Iran and China for murder and sabotage in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. The continuation of this undeclared war against our revolutionary country is the main obstacle on the path of the normalization of the situation around Afghanistan.

Therefore, the termination of this armed intervention and other forms of interference in the internal affairs of the DRA and valid international guarantees concerning the cessation of interference and their non-resumption in the future constitute the main condition for the normalization of the situation around Afghanistan.

Elizabeth Hidbourge — Sweden: What are you prepared to do in order to reach a peaceful settlement?

Answer: The Democratic Republic of Afghanistan has spared no efforts toward the normalization of the situation around Afghanistan because this is in the interest of all the people of the region and will benefit peace and security in the region and in the world.

The [words indistinct] in the well-known statements of May 14, 1980 and August 24, 1981 are the most significant examples of such efforts. We have participated in the Geneva talks with good will and serious political determination and have made every efforts to assist in the [words indistinct] the process of the negotiation shows that we have demonstrated every logical flexibility in these talks. We will spare no efforts in this connection in the future as well.

Japanese journalist: Other then the negotiation in Geneva what kind of efforts you intend to do for the normalization?

Answer: As I said we will not spare any efforts towards this end. In our opinion if the other side also partipate in the current process of negotiation in Geneva with good will and sincere political determination this process can lead to a comprehensive political solution of the present situation around our country.

Tom Higon - REUTER: Would you be ready to meet general Ziaul Haq in a summit aimed at finding a solution to the Afghan war?

Answer: Truth and justice is on our side. Therefore we are not opposed to any constructive (?and positive) talks with Pakistan at any level (?in) which good will and genuine political determination is demonstrated for solving the differences.

Japanese correspondent: What kind of agreements have been reached at the Geneva indirect negotiation?

Answer: To be concise I can say that so far general agreement concerning the question of non-interference, international guarantee and the voluntary return of the refugees have been reached. However, some details remain in these regard which requires to be ironed out during direct negotiations.

Japanese correspondent: By what time do you intend to reach the final agreement at Geneva?

Answer: As I said, provided the other side also demonstrates genuine political will, reaching the final agreement must not take a long time.

Tom Higon - REUTER: In a recent interview, you rejected the United States as a guarantor of the peace plan. How can [words indistinct] the U.S. as a guarantor [words indistinct] aim is to stop American support for the rebels? Would this be the best way to get Washington to stop its aid to the rebels?

Answer: No, it is not correct to say that I have rejected the United States as one of the guarantors of non-interference. What I have said in the past — and possibily my comments might have been misinterpreted — is that we can not agree to any preconditions in this regard. Moreover, we maintain that there is a difference between words and deeds. We want to see concrete steps on [words indistinct] of the U.S. towards the success of the negotiation process and [words indistinct] from putting pressure on Pakistan for making it adopt a negative and non-constructive position in the talks.

Japanese journalist: It is said that you have reached agreement in Geneva on the international guarantees. Could you elaborate on the agreement?

Answer: As I said before, important agreements have been reached concerning the guarantees. When the Geneva negotiation process reaches its logical end and all the agreements are finalized, the contents of these documents will become public.

Nikkila, Finland: Is Afghanistan preparing so-called "fourth document". If yes, could you tell us some details about it?

Answer: Yes, we have prepared such a draft document. I can tell you very clearly that the moment Pakistan is ready for direct talks, we will be prepared to discuss the text of this document.

Tom Higon - REUTER: Recent press reports suggest you are ready to consider a Soviet troop withdrawal as part of the Geneva peace talks with Pakistan. Are you ready to discuss this? How

many Soviet troops are now in Afghanistan and how many would stay as part of any agreement?

Answer: Not only recently but from the very beginning we have clearly declared that the presence of the limited military contingent of Soviet in the DRA is of a temporary nature. Because of increasing armed intervention and other forms of interference from abroad, particularly from Pakistan, [words indistinct] internal affairs of the DRA which was threatening the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country, the government of the DRA decided to resort to collective self defence on the basis of the provisions of Article 51 of the UN Charter.

In other words, it was because of the danger of escalation of armed intervention from abroad that the DRA government requested and received limited military assistance from the traditional and loyal friend of the Afghan people, the Soviet Union, on the basis of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Good-neighbourliness between the two countries. When the cause, that is, interferences from abroad is eliminated and valid international guarantees are provided on the complete cessation and non-resumption of intervention and other forms of interferences in the future, the DRA government will discuss the question of the return of the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union and it will return to its peace-loving country.

Concerning another part of the question I would like to say that, yes, we have accepted to discuss during district negotiations the interrelationship between the non-interference, international guarantees and the voluntary return of refugees on the one hand, and the question of the return of the Soviet limited contingent on the other. The DRA side is prepared at any moment to discuss the document concerning this interrelationship, provided the other side is ready for direct negotiation. I can add that we have accepted that this fourth document should also contain (?a reasonable) time-frame for the (?return) of the limited military contingent of the Soviet Union.

We would like to clarify a very important point in this regard. On the basis of international law the question of the invitation and temporary stay of the Soviet limited military contingent on the territory of the DRA is totally an internal affair of Afghanistan and, therefore, the question of [words indistinct] return to their peace-loving country concerns only the DRA and the Soviet Union in the [words indistinct] of this, the fact that we have accepted that the inter-relationship between the return of the Soviet limited military contingent and the other component part of a comprehensive settlement be reflected in the [words indistinct] document demonstrates a basic flexibility on our part.

Japanese correspondent: Could you give us your [words indistinct] timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan?

Answer: This is something that its inter-relationship with the other component parts of a comprehensive political settlement could be discussed during talks at Geneva. Its (?details) should be worked out (?in) a bilateral agreement between the DRA and the Soviet Union.

DPA correspondent, FRG: A great number of member countries of the UN have been demanding the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan during the past six years. The Kabul government is maintaining that using Pakistan [words indistinct] waged an undeclared war against Afghanistan and is emphasising that as a basic condition for the solution of this problem [words indistinct] the counter-revolution. (?Despite this deep) contradiction, do you see a possibility of solving this problem in the framework of the UN proposals?

Answer: The debate on the so-called problem of Afghanistan which for some years now has been imposed on the General Assembly of the United Nations by certain imperialists, hegemonist and reactionary circles is nothing but an unjustified and illegal interference in the internal affairs of the DRA. This debate is a gross violation of the UN Charter itself which prohibits the organisation from interfering in the internal affairs of member countries. Therefore, the resolution adopted each year at the end of this debate is not legally or morally binding on us. This is a fact that the representatives of the DRA have explained at the UN on the basis of the provisions of the organization's Charter.

On the other hand, the interferences of imperialist, hegemonist and reactionary forces, U.S. imperialism at the head, constitute, as I said before, the main reason behind the situation created around Afghanistan. The cessation of this interference and international guarantee of its nonresumption will return the situation to normal and will create the conditions for security and stability in our region.

Tom Higon - REUTER: The rebels fighting your government oppose the Geneva talks and have enough arms and munition to sabotage any settlement you and the Pakistanis may reach. Do you think the Geneva process can reach any agreement that would not be sabotaged by the rebels?

Answer: Your question depicts a wrong idea as if the Afghan counter-revolution can operate independently from the will of the government and the militarists of Pakistan. Firstly, it should be clarified that the Afghan counter-revolutionary groups, being a tool for the realization of the interventionists and war-mongering policy of the U.S., China, Pakistan and other imperialist countries in the framework of the undeclared war against the DRA, are void of any independent political will or action, they are serving as negative factors in the intensification of the situation around Afghanistan. Without the vast moral and material support and all-sided financial, military and political assistance of international imperialism and regional reaction, these mercenaries will not be able to resist against the unshakable will of the freeborn and revolutionary people and the (?heroic armed forces) of the DRA, in their struggle for defending the glorious April Revolution and building a new progressive society. If the undeclared (?war ceased), the heroic armed forces of our country is fully capable of effectively defending the independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of the DRA.

Tom Higon - REUTER: Some Pakistanis say the government in Kabul must change, or at least you and some other leaders should step down, before any settlement can be reached. Are you ready to go so far as resigning in the interest of a peaceful settlement

to the Afghanistan problem?

Answer: I don't know whom do you mean by some "Pakistanis"? The absolute majority of the people in Pakistan and the leaders of the parties and social personalities in that country have time and again voiced their wish for the normalization of relations with the DRA through direct talks. If you mean the militarists who are ruling Pakistan with bayonets and are rejected by the majority of the people of Pakistan, it may not be surprising that they might have expressed such an idea.

Actually making such an expression not only shows their effort to intervene in the internal affairs of our free and independent country, the [words indistinct] out it reflects their ill-wishes [words indistinct] they should realize that in the country where the progressive and democratic social systems are dominant, it is the people who are determining the destiny of their countries. The credible representatives of all strata, classes, nationalities and tribes residing in our united homeland, revolutionary Afghanistan, have unanimously endorsed all the domestic and foreign policies of the DRA. Only [words indistinct] and free-born people of Afghanistan have the right to take decisions concerning the appointment of their state leaders.

S.P.K. Gupta - PTI, India: Prime Minister Gandhi of India discussed last October with Mr Reagan and M.S. Gorbachev about American guarantees and Soviet troops withdrawal, it is reported. Now that some progress has been made on guarantees (?of) withdrawals, what role do you think the Non-aligned Movements can play in getting Pakistan and Afghanistan to proceed with the next step to improve the situation around Afghanistan?

Answer: The importance of the role played by the Non-aligned Movement in the sphere of international relations in the preservation of world peace and security is undeniable. The DRA, as an active member of this movement has taken dynamic part towards the realization of the objectives and principles of the movement and emphasizes on its unity and anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist orientation. There is no doubt that the movement can encourage Pakistan to negotiate directly in the Geneva talks, the process of which is continuing between the representatives of the two countries. Likewise it can encourage the countries involved in the undeclared war against the DRA, to do [words indistinct] their assistance and participation in this unjust and imposed war.

Czechosloavk radio-TV correspondent: Please elaborate on the support of Pashto tribes for your country.

Answer: Having common traditional, cultural, economic and historic ties, our people, have always enjoyed the support of tribal brothers. The victory of the April Revolution as a turning point in the construction of a new society and the ensurance of the genuine equality between the tribes and nationalities of the country, enjoys the support of the tribes. On the basis of their free, just and peace-loving judgement, the tribes in the course of tens of jirgas have condemned the imposed, reactionary, hegemonist and imperialist undeclared war being mainly carried out from the territory of Pakistan as a spring-board of aggression against the DRA. They have asked for the ceasation of the interference in the internal affairs of the DRA. The High Jirga of frontier tribes, as a clear manifestation of the unity of the tribes, was recently held with the participation of [words indistinct] credible representatives of the tribes. By reaffirming and expressing support to the domestic and foreign policies of the DRA, the authoritive representatives of the valorous tribes decided during this Jirga that their areas should not [words indistinct] for the implementation of the imperialist and reactionary schemes against their brothers in the DRA.

The implementation of these historic decisions by the militant frontier tribes aroused the fury and hysteria of the militarists of Islamabad and their masters (?to the) fierce resistance of the tribes against the recent suppressive operations of the military regime of Pakistan aimed at removing the tribes as an obstacle on the way of the continuation of the undeclared war against the DRA, is the best manifestation of the solidarity of the tribes with their brothers in the DRA.

S.P.K. Gupta, India: The Afghan ambassador in Moscow is [words indistinct] Afghans can not let their Pashtun brothers be annihilated. What concrete measures of help do you envisage by Afghanistan for Afridis and Shenwaris in their present fight?

Answer: The people of Afghanistan have deep fraternal, national, tribal linguistic, historical and friendly ties with the valorous tribes residing from Chitral to Baluchistan and elsewhere. Being so close they are sharing their sorrow and happiness like two brothers.

The recent incidents which have taken place in Khyber as a result of the militarist policy of Pakistan, at the (?instigation) of imperialism, are aimed at intensifying and increasing tension in the region and exerting pressure on the free Pashtun tribes to accept the anti-Afghan policy of Islamabad. The people of Afghanistan and the social organizations of the DRA, among them the National Fatherland Front and the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization of the DRA have expressed in their meetings and statements solidarity with their historic frontier Pashtun brothers.

Moreover, the government of the DRA has expressed its concern to the Pakistani authorities in connection to the assault of the soldiers of that regime on the tribal areas. We have despatched the messages of esteemed Malik Wali Khan Kokikhel Afridi and some other leaders of free tribes addressed to UN secretary general, the Organization of Islamic Conference and the prime minister of India and we are willing to render every kind of moral assistance to our Pashtun brothers.

Japanese correspondent: What kind of contacts do you have with the leaders of America and West European countries? You have plans to visit West European countries in the near future?

Answer: To have normal and friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation with all the countries of the world, irrespective of their social and economic system, on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence, respect for sovereignty and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other, constitute the basis of the foreign policy of the DRA.

Stuart Lorry - CNN, USA: I have read many reports that your government would not survive with the withdrawal of Soviet

troops. Would you please comment on this?

Answer: The reports you have read is far apart from the reality. Any one who [words indistinct] the evolutionary process of the April Revolution or is familiar with the indefatigable struggle of the militant people of the DRA under the (?leadership) of the PDPA, carried out for the deep revolutionary transformation of our society, understands will that the revolutionary struggle is based on the interests of the entire working and patriotic strata and classes of our country and therefore enjoys the selfless support of the vast masses of the country.

As I have mentioned earlier, provided that an end is put to the undeclared war of imperialism led by US imperialism, Chinese hegemonism and regional reaction standing in an unholy front against our homeland, the heroic armed forces of our country with the cooperation of the people are able to give a befitting response to any threat directed against our independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Stuart Lorry - CNN, USA: Is there any way you could share power with counter-revolutionary leaders in a government resulting from a negotiated settlement?

Answer: Do you know who are these so-called leaders of the counter-revolutionary bands? These known [words indistinct] were for years in the service of the imperialist and reactionary circles and their espionage organizations. They have been rejected by the broad working masses of our country and have sought refuge in the folds of their imperialist and reactionary masters. Moreover, the hands of the each of them are stained with the blood of hundreds of noble sons of the homeland including the women, children and elders. They have bereaved hundreds of mothers in the mourning of their beloved sons and set ablaze the public and private riches of the people of Afghanistan including the mosques, hospitals, libraries, roads, bridges, power lines [words indistinct].

Due to all these murders, looting and criminal deeds, the counter-revolutionaries are hated by our people. How can you think under such conditions, that the people of Afghanistan could ever consider what you have pointed out.

Stuart Lorry - CNN, USA: Would those Afghans who fled to Pakistan after the revolution be welcomed back without retribution after a settlement?

Answer: Our policy in [words indistinct] quite obvious. The amnesty decree of the Presidium of the RC of the DRA, the resolutions of the historic Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) of the people of Afghanistan a number of other state documents, which are in force since many years, have solved this issue from the real point of view. By referring to these documents you can find out that the folds of the homeland are open to all compatriots who due to various reasons live outside the country.

Stuart Lorry - CNN, USA: Why is it taking so long to rid the country of the counter-revolution?

Answer: It would have been better if you would have asked why confronting the undeclared war launched against our country, in which the counter-revolutionaries have been used as an instrument, has taken so long a time. The operations of the Washington administration embodied in the framework of this war is not a simple operation against our country.

It is sufficient to state here that the anti-Afghan operations of Washington, being intensified with the collaboration of its international and regional accomplices against the DRA, constitute the largest operation of the USA since the war against Vietnam. Washington alone has so far spend about 1.2 billion U.S. dollars, officially sanctioned by the US Senate and Congress, for financing the undeclared war against our young revolution.

This is not the sole source of financing the undeclared war against our country. Huge amounts of money and weapons have been earmarked by the US allies for the continuation and intensification of this war. I hope you could now understand what are the reasons lying behind the continuation of our struggle against the counter-revolutionary elements.

Polish journalist: What, in your opinion, would be the effect of the improvement of the world situation on the situation around Afghanistan? Please comment on the Geneva spirit.

Answer: In our view, the determining issues put forward in the Geneva talks are of special significance. The agreements reached at the talks on the prevention of any kind of military conflict between the USSR and the USA, both sides acceptence of not gaining military superiority over each other and the consolidation of the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and the need for a complete ban on chemical weapons, have been warmly welcomed by the PDPA, the state and the people of DRA, we are fully convinced that the honest implementation of these decisions could improve the overall international situation and can deliver the planet from the danger of a nuclear holocaust.

The peaceloving people of the DRA, by supporting the principles of the peaceloving foreign policy of their party and state warmly applaud the efforts, including the outcomes of the Geneva talks, undertaken for the improvement of international situation and the prevention of the danger of war. But what is important in our view is the difference between works and deeds. The developments following the Geneva talks [words indistinct] demonstrate that the Reagan administration does not honestly pursue the concluded accords and even acts against the Geneva spirit, an approach which is in contradiction to the [words indistinct] of the peaceloving people of the world, the people of DRA, [words indistinct].

Obviously the improvement of the international situation has positive effects on the improvement of the global situation and the various regions of the world.

Polish journalist: Please comment on your plans for developing relations with the socialist countries, including Poland. What is the importance of your visit to Poland and your visit with Wojciech Jaruzelski?

Answer: With the victory of April Revolution and its new and revolutionary phase, the relations of the DRA with the countries of the fraternal socialist community, headed by the great Soviet

Union, has entered a new stage of fraternal [words indistinct] relations, that [words indistinct] relations be further expanding and consolidating in general interests of the peoples of our countries day by day.

Since the very beginning of the revolution, our country enjoyed the fraternal support of the Polish People's Republic. The relations of the DRA with the Polish People's Republic, based upon the principles of fraternal solidarity of the people, constantly develop in all spheres of social, political, economic and cultural fields in the interests of the peoples of the two countries and the cause of international peace and security.

In recent visit at the head of a high-level party and state delegation ot the fraternal country of Poland and our fruitful and constructive meetings with esteemed Comrade Jaruzelski and other party and state leaders of the Polish People's Republic is yet another significant step towards the [words indistinct] further expansion of friendly relations between our parties, governments and peoples.

Czechoslovak radio-TV correspondent: Please comment on the concrete achievements of the revolution regarding the social policies of your country inspite of the difficulties resulting from the undeclared war?

Answer: The main gains of the working people of Afghanistan, which were achieved towards carrying out profound changes in the society and ensuring national and social freedoms after the victory of the April Revolution, particularly its [words indistinct].

The establishment of the sovereignty of the toiling people and the formation of new political system in the country, ensuring the fundamental and democratic freedoms and rights of the people through the promulgation and enactment of new laws according to the needs of the society, among them the fundamental principles of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, [words indistinct] the local organs of state power and administration and the labour law.

The spectacular expansion of social and mass organisations, i.e., the trade unions, the Union of Peasants Co-operatives, Democratic Youth Organisation of Afghanistan, Women's Democratic Organisation of Afghanistan, the Unions of Artists, Poets, Writers and [words indistinct] the High Council of Scholars and Clergymen, the Council of Tribal Jirgas, the Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organisation of the DRA, the Jurists Association of the DRA. The formation of the [words indistinct]

The successful implementation of the democratic land and water reforms in the interest of the working peasants, the process of which continues on the implementation of the broad based national campaign (?against) illiteracy, through which about 1.2 million people have become literate. The establishment of universities and high vocational schools. The consolidation of state power in the villages, sub-districts and districts and the establishment of the local organs of state power and administration through universal and democratic elections. The construction of new economic prospects and the elevation of the agroindustrial products, the strengthening of state and mixed sectors in the national economy, twice raising the salaries and wages of workers and state employees, and tens of other achievements.

[Words indistinct] *AL-ANBA'*, Kuwait: Does the improvement of relations between China and the Soviet Union have brought [as received] a (?change) in the policies of China in connection to the difficulties of Afghanistan?

Answer: The improvement of relations between these two countries can have a positive effect in this regards. Regrettably no sign has been so far witnessed on the part of the Peking leadership to either abandon or revise their hostile policy against the DRA, cease their interference, and stop their assistance to the Afghan counter-revolutionaries.

On the contrary, China has stepped up its broad hostile campaign against our country. The Chinese-made weapons are widely used for arming the counter-revolutionary forces and the number of military training camps for the Afghan counter-revolutionaries, based on the Chinese territory in the vicinity of our borders is on the increase. The ever greater number of Chinese are being despatched to train the counter-revolutionaries in camps based in Pakistan.

Ahmad [words indistinct] *AL-WATAN*, Kuwait: What are the dimensions and forms of Israeli assistance to the enemies of Afghanistan?

Answer: Israel has a role in the undeclared war against Afghanistan and the campaign of interferences, intervention and devilish plots hatched against our country. This role [words indistinct] broader dimensions day by day. For instance, Israel along with Saudi Arabia and China have handed over (?20) million dollars to the Afghan counter-revolutionaries during the last year. The Israeli instructors teach the bandits the arts of murder, destruction and other criminal deeds in military training camps situated in Pakistan and equip them with lethal and sophisticated weapons. Making frequent visits to those camps, the authorities of Tel Aviv (?hold) talks with the gang-leaders of Afghan counter-revolution, further instigating them against our people and revolution by main interventionist and provocative (?expressions) and promising them ever further assistance.

To spread lies and accusations against the DRA and distort the essence of the fraternal aids of the Soviet Union and the truth of our revolution, Radio Israel broadcasts a daily programme in Dari [words indistinct].

Ahmad Nu'aman — *AL-WATAN*, Kuwait: What is your assessment of your relations with the Arab countries?

Answer: The DRA is in [words indistinct] of developing friendly relations with all the countries of the world, irrespective of their political and social systems, on the basis of the principles of peaceful co-existence, non-alignment, respect for national sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of each other. We are emphasizing on the development of relations with the (?fraternal) Islamic countries, including the Arabic ones and fortunately, we have got very close relations with a great number of these countries, among them Syria, Democratic Yemen, Libya and other progressive countries and forces. These countries are

defending our positions in international arena for which we are grateful.

Ahmad Nu'aman *AL-WATAN*, Kuwait: The opinion is expressed in Kuwait that Kuwait and other Arab countries (?could) exert pressure on America and Pakistan for the cessation of interferences in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. What is your opinion in this regards?

Answer: I think the Arabic countries who so desire can play a positive role in this regard. First of all those Arabic countries having unfortunately a common position with U.S. imperialism, (?Chinese) hemonism and militarists of Pakistan, in the undeclared war against our country, should do away with their participation in this imposed war against our people.

Ahmad Nu'amin, *AL-WATAN*, Kuwait: How do you evaluate Soviet initiative for the solution of the Middle East problem vis-a-vis American efforts to solve the question through the Camp David negotiations which is an unjust [words indistinct] in the interest of the Tel Aviv and Washington?

Answer: The interest of the Arab people of the Middle East and of international security demands the immediate, comprehensive, just and durable solution of the Middle East problems. This task can only be worked out and implemented through the joint efforts of the all the sides concerned.

Historical experience regarding the seeking of ways to solve the Middle East issue, clearly demonstrates that [words indistinct] aimed at imposing concessions on Arabs has not solved the problem. It has only encouraged Israel for further aggression against the Arab people.

The U.S.-type solution of the Middle East problem, based on the Camp David deal between Egypt and Israel, is a capitulatory way of solving the issue which contradict the interests of the people of the region. The correct and effective way of the solution of the Middle East problem based on facts and the just interests and wishes of the peoples of the region is the method of joint efforts with the participation of all concerned sides through the holding of an international conference on the Middle East problem.

Any durable peace in the Middle East should be based on the ensurance of the national rights of the Palestinian people including their right for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and the full and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli military forces from all occupied Arab territories, taking into account the legitimate rights and interests of all the states in the region.

Musafer *AL-ANBA'*, Kuwait: What is your opinion concerning Arab countries as a whole and Gulf Arab countries in particular, in connection to the solution of the difficulties of Afghanistan?

Answer: Our country has broad historical ties with the Arab and the Gulf countries. We have always fully supported the struggle of the Arab peoples against colonialism, imperialism and Zionism. Our position is particularly clear to the just cause of the Arab people of Palestine. We support the ensurance of the right of the people of Palestine including the right to establish an independent Palestinian state and the withdrawal of Israeli occupationist forces from Arab lands. We regard the implementation of this as the only way of maintaining a just and durable peace in the Middle East.

Concerning the Gulf countries, it should be pointed out that these countries, having rich resources of oil, attracted the greedy attention of the imperialist monoplies. As a result the imperialists have posed a serious danger to the freedom, territorial integrity and independence of the Gulf countries under the guise of the so-called "regions of vital interest".

We consider the military presence of the imperialist countries as a [words indistinct] danger to regional peace and security. It should be added that the DRA supports the expansion of friendly relations and close cooperation with the Arab and Gulf countries. We have expanded our mutual relations with a number of Arab countries. Regrettably, there are a number of Arab and Gulf countries which despite the interest of the peoples of their [words indistinct] and security in the region and the world at large, have posed a serious threat to our country and peace and security in our region by following the footsteps of imperialism in the undeclared war against the DRA. I hope that these countries, paying attention to the dangers that their policies have posed to peace and security in our country and the region, (?shall) adopt a realistic and broad-minded approach towards the solution of the situation around Afghanistan stemming from the imperialist and reactionary interference in the internal affairs of our country.

Musafer, Kuwaiti journalist: What is you review and that of the government of the DRA with regard to the unity of the Muslim world?

Answer: As regards the unity of the Islamic countries, it should be stated that all the Islamic countries have [words indistinct] the better fruits of world colonial system, one way or the other. Today these countries are the target of the ominous schemes of imperialism and Zionism. These two satanic forces have created (?grave) danger to the security, independence and territorial integrity of the Islamic countries. Through various neo-colonialist methods, imperialism is striving to hamper the socio-economic development of these countries. Obviously, if the countries would be able to mobilize all their forces against the real enemies of the Muslim world, they will gain the support of the peace-loving humanity.

Musafer, Kuwait: How do you assess the role of the Gulf Cooperation Council in the Middle East and in the world as a whole?

Answer: We want a lasting peace and security in the Gulf region and the curtailment of any tension in this area. Furthermore, we have declared our support for the expansion of the friendly relations, economic and social and cultural ties between the neighbouring countries, the countries of the region and all the countries of the world. The continuation of the tension in the Gulf region has created serious danger to the security, territorial integrity and the independence of the countries of the region. Using various pretexts such as "the freedom of navigation" or the protection of its "vital interests", imperialism is expanding its military presence; this fact has created grave danger to the countries of the region. Therefore, the countries of the Gulf

region should exert all their efforts to solve the tension so they could curtail the interference of imperialist powers in their intenal affairs, should not resort to force in solving the conflicts and should struggle for the dismantling of foreign military bases.

In our view, these can also play an effective role in the realization of the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine and the liberation of the Arab territories from the occupation of Israel Zionists.

Ahmad Nu'aman, Kuwait: What is your stance with regards to Iran-Iraq war?

Answer: The DRA sincerely supports an end to the conflicts between the two neighbouring Muslim countries, Iran and Iraq. The continuation of this senseless bloody war which has caused great human and material losses, is (?only to the) benefit of those imperialist countries who have started the war in order to find a pretext for their military presence, get the control of the sea and air routes, and the natural resources and prevent the independent development of the countries of the region. It is the sincere desire of the governmnet and the people of the DRA that this destructive fratricidal war between two neighbouring Muslim countries be ended as soon as possible.

Tom Higon - REUTER: Your party is unique among communist parties in being split into the Parcham and Khawqi factions. We hear reports of even physical fighting and shoot outs between the rival groups. Why is your party split like this and what are your doing to heal the rift?

Answer: First of all, it should be pointed out that the correct name of our party is the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, the party of the working class and all the working people of the country including, peasants, intellectuals, artisans and all the other strata of the society. Furthermore, the PDPA is a solidly united party with complete organizational, ideological cohesion and the unity of objectives. As a revolutionary vanguard it has the mission of leading Afghanistan towards the creation of a progressive society. The reports that you mentioned are falsifications, which are made by the propaganda machinery of Washington, Islamabad and other capitals of imperialist and reactionary countries against our party. Such fabrications have no basis what so ever.

Stuart Lorry - CNN, USA: How can a regime based on a belief in Marxism-Leninism lead a country that is strongly Islamic? How can you deal with the inherent contradiction?

Answer: The revolutionary system which has been established in our country, is a national and democratic system and has the goals realizing revolutionary transformations in the interest of the great masses of our country. In our opinion the high objectives of the April Revolution and the programme of actions of our party do not contradict the calls for justice and equality which [words indistinct] emphasized in the holy religion of Islam. We fully believe that true Islam is in full conformity with justice, prosperity and social progress which have been enshrined in the programme of action of the PDPA. The party and government of the DRA are indefatigably striving for its fulfilment. We see no contradiction between the programme of action of our party and the tenets of Islam on serving the people.

Tom Higon, REUTER: Thousands of Afghan children have been sent to the Soviet Union for education. Isn't there a danger that these children will return so influenced by the Soviet culture that they will be strangers in their homeland and therefore seen as strangers by most Afghans?

Answer: It should be stated that the revolutionary power attaches a great importance to the young generation of our country and for the education of the sons of our homeland. Not only grounds have been paved for the education of the youth in our country, but a number of them have been sent to advanced countries for education in different fields. Sending the youth to the developed countries for education has become an important task for the developing countries and all the developing countries are sending their youth to the various developed countries for education. We are confident that acquiring knowledge will never make our youth strangers to the valuable cultural heritage of our country.

It should be mentioned that the blossoming and progressive cultural revolution would have been far greater.

By growingly understanding the effective programmes of the revolutionary state in the construction of a new, just society, the people are taking all-sided and resolute part in the defence of the gains of the revolution and are foiling the plots and conspiracies of the enemies of the revolution, one after the other.

All the goals that we want to fulfill by our revolution have not been realized so far. The construction of a new and just society is not a short and easy process. Nevertheless, despite the undeclared war of reaction and imperialism, by the pursuance of the triumphant process of the revolution we are achieving new victories in the benefit of our country with every passing day.

In the view of our enemies, it would have been better if we would have not achieved all these victories in emancipating our society from the bondage of reaction and imperialism.

Elizabet Hidbourge - Sweden: Don't you ever doubt about winning the war? Even if it were won by your government, aren't you afraid of the deep scars it will leave in your country?

Answer: We could not see any reason to even doubt for a moment our final and decisive victory. Any basic change which is taking place in the society on the basis of the will of the masses is firm and undeniable. Having such a conviction I would like to once again explain that the National Democratic April Revolution has triumphed on the will of the absolute majority of the society for emancipating the country from centuries old backwardness and building a new just society. Therefore the revolution since its very triumph is dominant on our society and despite the plots and conspiracies of the counter-revolution have victoriously opened its path forward towards the materialization of the long cherished aspiration of our people.

As regard to the second part of your question it should be mentioned that naturally every war including the imperialist, hegemonist and reactionary undeclared war led by Washington administration against our country and revolution encompasses

losses and destruction. For your information, it should be said that the destruction to our economy so far emanating from this imposed war against our country, besides the human losses of our innocent people have reached the equivalent of more than afs. 36 billion. Despite that this war is wasting a great part of our human resources and imposes huge military expenditures on the economy of our country constitute the other side of the destruction stemming from this war. [sentence as received]

I would like to clearly declare that the undeclared war being increasingly intensified against our country, can only slow-down the process of the realization of the basic transformations in our country. The real organisers of this war are in no way able to quell the revolution in our society and to make our people retreat from the path that they have chosen.

Roberto Molina - Cuba: Cuba was a backward, Third World country like Afghanistan. Now it has been 27 years that socialism is being built in Cuba. What Cuban experience do you think would be useful for the Afghan revolution?

Answer: With the victory of the April Revolution, the DRA was placed in the ranks of genuinely independent, peaceloving and progressive countries of the world. In order to build a new and progressive society we are making use of the experience of these forces and the revolutionary countries, including heroic Cuba, with due considerations to the national, traditional and specific conditions of our people and society.

Karmal Cited on 'Limited Soviet Contingent'

LD310913 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Kabul, January 30, BAKHTAR — Answering a CNN TV correspondent of the United States, Babrak Karmal described the summit meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan constructive for improving the Soviet-U.S. relations, ameliorating the world political atmosphere as well as for the global peace and security but it should be said with regret that the words of the U.S. Administration does not match its deeds. General secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan was speaking at an extemporaneous press conference held in Kabul in which journalists from 14 countries [words indistinct] participated.

Babrak Karmal added that the position of the Soviet Union and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan vis-a-vis the situation around Afghanistan are exactly the same.

Babrak Karmal said that he had a meeting in Moscow with Mikhail Gorbachev when the latter was elected as general secretary of the CPSU CC. Talks are held on ensuring peace and security in the region, in Asia and in the world.

It should be said. Babrak Karmal continued to say, that views were exchanged on Afghanistan as well. Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev on behalf of the party, state and the people of the Soviet Union frankly stated that the peaceful people of the Soviet Union, its state led by the Communist Party of the Soviet Union are desirous of an Afghanistan to live under peaceful conditions. The leader of the Soviet Union wants an independent, free and non-aligned Afghanistan to be friendly with the Soviet Union as well as a democratic, progressive and advanced country, said Babrak Karmal.

Isn't it high time for the Soviet troops to return to their country taken into account the existing tranquillity in Afghanistan, asked a representative of PTI from India.

Replying to his question, Babrak Karmal said that in fact the U.S. Administration does not want the limited military contingents of the Soviet Union to return to their homeland. The United States should stop all its aggressive policy in the region.

Under the pretext of the so-called issue of Afghanistan the United States is misusing the situation for its intervention in Afghanistan against the Soviet Union, against the national and social liberation movements as well as for international terrorism.

I think, Babrak Karmal said, that the Afghan and Indian citizens understand better than anybody else that the militarisation of Pakistan is aimed at putting into effect the aggressive policies of the U.S. imperialism and Chinese hegemonism.

Sikh Convention Summoned to Discuss Temple Situation

BK301317 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] The head priest of the Akal Takht (highest seat of Sikh religion), Jathedar Kripal Singh, has summoned the Sarbat Khalsa [highest congregational assembly] to meet at the Takhtlin Amritsar on the 16th of next month. According to agency reports, the head priest in a press release in Amritsar today said that he took the decision after consulting his four other colleagues.

The consultations were made following the request of the general house meeting of the Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak [Sikh Temple Management] Committee at Anantpur Sahib on Tuesday. The Jathedar said the Sarbat Khalsa meeting will discuss the situation of hooliganism, fear, hatred and violence created by certain elements in the Golden Temple at the time of the launching of Kar Seva [voluntary service] at the Akal Takht on Sunday.

Sentencing Procedures Questioned in Gandhi Trial

BK301301 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] A writ petition by Kehar Singh and Balbir Singh, two of the three convicts sentenced death in the Indira Gandhi assassination case, came up before the Delhi high court today.

A division bench comprising Mr Justice R.N. Agarwal and Mr Justice Malik Sharifuddin observed that the trial court judgement failed to specify that the convicts be hangd by the neck till they are dead. They also said that it has not been stated that the sentence of death was subject to the confirmation by the high court.

The two judges said they would not like to express their final opinion now. All thee can be appropriately dealt with at the time of the appeals or when the reference comes up for the confirmation of the death sentence, they observed.

Further Details

HK300928 Hong Kong AFP in English 0854 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] New Delhi, Jan 30 (AFP) — A high court here today stayed the execution of two of the three Sikhs sentenced to death last week for the murder of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, saying the lower court judgement had loopholes, a court bulletin said.

Justice R.N. Agarwal and Justice Malik Sharif al-Din did notcancel the sentences but said they had decided to allow a stay of execution until correct legal procedures were followed.

In a preliminary hearing on appeals filed by two of the condemned men, the high court judges said that the lower court judge, Mahesh Chandra, had not specified how the death sentences were to be carried out. According to Indian penal laws, condemned prisoners are "hanged by the neck, until death." But Mr Chandra, while pronouncing his judgement on the three Sikhs on January 22 merely said "I sentence them to death." The high court judges also observed that Mr Chandra did not explain why he called the murder trial the "rarest of the rare cases" in support of his judgement.

The appeals to the higher court were moved by Kehar Singh and Balbir Singh, but not yet by the prime accused, Satwant Singh. But legal experts said the ruling would be applicable to all three Sikhs.

Mrs Gandhi was shot dead by two of her Sikh guards here on October 31, 1984. One of the guards, Beant Singh, was shot dead by Mrs Gandhi's loyal guards, but wounded Satwant Singh survived to face trial. The two other Sikhs were arrested and charged after reported confessions by Satwant Singh and federal investigations.

The lower court judgment also had not mentioned, as is normally done, that the death sentence be carried out only after confirmation by the higher courts, counsels for the two condemned men said. They argued that in the absence of such a directive, authorities could carry out the execution without confirmation of the higher court. But the court in its ruling today assured the counsels the sentence would not be carried out until its confirmation.

"It is thus clear that the sentence of death passed by the sessions judge can not be executed unless it is confirmed," the judges ruled. "The important question will arise as to what is the effect of these ommissions," the judges said. They said they "would like to express our final opinion on these contentions" and said they could "be gone into in details and appropriately dealt with at the time of the hearing of the appeals or when the reference comes up for the confirmation of the death sentences."

The next hearing is set for February 10, when counsels of the two sides — the state and the condemned men — are to argue the case. Both parties have the right to appeal to the Supreme Court after the high court judgement.

Junejo Speech Promotes Education, Democracy

BK301144 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has said that the government is determined to provide more and more educational facilities in the country to build a strong and stable nation based on its ideology. He was laying the foundation stone of the residential colony of the Allamah Iqbal Open University in Islamabad this morning. He said special attention is being given to enhance the literacy rate from 28 to 70 percent both in men and women. The students should also realize their responsibilities toward their parents, their government, and their nation as they are the future builders of the country. They should derive all benefits from the facilities provided to them and create an atmosphere conducive to their learning and should not take part in such activities which will not only hamper the government's efforts but their own future.

The prime minister said as far as literacy was concerned, the government will continue to give top priority to increase the literacy rate as he had expressed in his first address to the nation after the lifting of martial law. He regretted that after 38 years of the existence of Pakistan the literacy percentage was as low as 28. He had promised to the nation that whatever literacy was achieved in 38 years would be given in 5 years.

Later talking informally with the newsmen, the prime minister said that the government believes in complete democracy in the country and so in the freedom of expression. He said there is an elected government and we have allowed every responsible citizen of the country to express his feelings whatever he considers best in the interest of the nation. He said we have so far laid rules and procedures of politics and expect neat and clean politics.

Noorani on Maritime Boundary Demarcation with India

BK301553 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Excerpts] The National Assembly disposed of a number of adjournment motions today. The house adopted for discussion an adjournment motion regarding the recent bomb explosion at the Pakistan International Airlines Office in Peshawar.

Sheikh Rashid sought to move an adjournment motion regarding oil exploration by India near the Pakistani coast. Speaking on the motion, the minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, said the maritime boundary in the area concerned has not been demarcated. However, under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, Pakistan and India have agreed to demarcate maritime limits.

The Pakistan Government has accepted India's proposal for initiating negotiations in this regard, but the demarcation of the maritime boundary must be preceded by demarcation of the territorial boundary. He said that work on the limitation of the territorial limits in a sector of the Rann of the Kutch area still remains to be done. A meeting of the surveyors general of the two countries is to be held in next few weeks. The mover did not press his motion after this statement.

JANG Comments on Security After Martial Law

GF301632 Lahore JANG in Urdu 25 Jan 86 p 3

[Editorial: "The Problem of Security and the Incidents of Sabotage"]

[Text] Breach of peace and incidents of sabotage used to happen during the martial law era also, and some of these incidents were very serious. However, the incidents of sabotage which have occurred in various parts of the country since the lifting of martial law have become a cause for serious concern of patriotic elements and people of sound judgement in the country.

Two persons were killed in a bomb explosion at a mosque in the Mohmand Agency one day before the dreadful bomb explosion at the office of Pakistan International Airways [PIA] in Peshawar, which caused widespread damage and significant loss of life. Such incidents have taken place in the past as well, but the bomb explosion in the PIA office is a very serious incident. According to some reports, 15 persons were killed and 23 injured in this explosion. Among the injured was the son of the governor of NWFP [North-West Frontier Province]. This was the third incident over the past 3 days to also cause considerable financial loss.

In addition to the PIA office, the offices of the NWFP Development Department and the United Bank were also totally destroyed in this explosion. Responding to a correspondent's question, the NWFP Chief Minister Arbab Muhammad Jahangir stated that in view of these explosions, there is now a danger to the lives of the Cabinet ministers as well. This shows how serious the situation has become.

In addition to the incidents in NWFP, there have been very alarming incidents in Sind Province, including the kidnapping of government officials and citizens, murder, and major thefts. A superintendent of the police intelligence department and a colleague of his were kidnapped in broad daylight in Sind. The police and related departments have as yet been unable to trace the whereabouts of the kidnapped officials. Four police constables were kidnapped in Nwabshah — two of them were killed. Not a single arrest has been made thus far in these cases.

Three jewelry shops and two boutiques were robbed in Karachi recently, but no culprit has been traced. Fifteen persons were kidnapped from a village in Daud. A few days earlier a police official and two landlords were released by kidnappers after receiving ransom. A further report states that 15 persons were secretly murdered in a settlement along Chundrigarh road in Karachi; news of it came several days later. No arrest has been made in this case either.

It is quite possible that some of the murders and kidnappings may have occurred due to local enmities, but the incidents of theft, kidnapping of government officials, and the bomb explosions are certainly due to the activities of saboteurs. These incidents create problems of law and order.

The country is full of unlicensed arms; this too is a matter of concern for peace-loving citizens. A report indicates that in Punjab Province alone, 200,000 arms licenses were issued over

the past 9 months. Once can only guess the number of licenses issued in other provinces. In NWFP arms are being manufactured locally and widespread arms smuggling takes place in this province via Afghanistan. The Khyber Agency operation has created a problem of law and order in tribal areas. These problems were not created by political parties or by antigovernment politicians.

The government surely is aware of these things and it must be considering the ways and means to safeguard the lives and property of the general public and combat incidents that breach law and order. The government must have been aware that saboteurs would go all out to create unrest in the country as soon as martial law was lifted. The government must have been aware of the infiltration of hostile elements from across the border from Afghanistan. Similarly, the regime must have been aware of acts of vandalism which occurred in the Sind government in the name of the MRD movement.

It seems that some agents of foreign powers have become active trying to force Pakistan to accept a solution to the Afghanistan problem for their benefit and to negate the steps taken by the regime to restore democracy in the country. It is the primary duty of the government to step up its efforts to maintain law and order in the country. The law enforcement authorities should also be alerted in this connection. Patriotic elements in the country are also dutybound to cooperate fully with the government.

The government should look into the demands of the opposition parties and should not delay holding dialogue with the leaders of these parties. These days it is the responsibility of the government, opposition parties, and the politicians to save the country from internal unrest and sabotage calamities. Political parties should do nothing at this stage to strengthen the hands of the saboteurs or anything which may encourage them because internal unrest in a country paves the way for the external enemies to gain their ends. The government should also look into the unrest which exists in several educational institutions and among students. This restlessness is a part of the overall agitation in the country.

In view of the sensitivity of the situation, we trust that the government will lose no time in fulfilling its responsibilities, in safeguarding lives and property of the general public, and in saving the country from any disorder and disturbance.

Meanwhile, the Action Committee for the Protection of the Rights of the Citizens of Peshawar has announced that there will be a general strike on Saturday to express its sorrow and distress over explosion on the premises of the PIA office in Peshawar. It has also demanded the removal of Afghan refugees to the outskirts of the city and the restriction of their movement to within the refugee camp areas. The government has already been urging the refugees to remain within their camp areas, but no one has paid any attention. Afghan refugees live in various cities of Pakistan. There is also the possibility that the Afghan saboteurs have entered Pakistan in the garb of refugees. It is therefore necessary for the government to make them remain within their alloted area.

Under the present circumstances there is a danger of a clash between the refugees and the local inhabitants which might create a new problem. The government has already arrested a number of Afghan saboteurs who had infiltrated into Pakistan in the garb of refugees. The Peshawar citizens are, therefore, justified in demanding that those refugees now living within the city should be removed to their camps. The same principle should be adopted in other cities also so that the possibility of a clash between the locals and the refugees is reduced to the minimum.

Attempt To Smuggle Missiles into Kurram Agency Foiled

BK310244 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Kurram Agency soldiers have foiled an attempt to smuggle into Pakistan 10 multi-barrel missiles [3 preceding words in English as heard] intended for sabotage activities. The political agent of Kurram Agency awarded cash prizes to the soldiers who participated in this activity which occurred about 10 miles away from Parachinar.

Afghan Mujahidin Shoot Down MiG, Helicopters

BK310624 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say mujahidin shot down two combat helicopters and a MiG plane and damaged a tank in clashes with Soviet-Karmal forces in Jalalabad and Arghastan.

BANGLADESH

Opposition Parties Demonstrate Against Martial Law

BK310427 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, main opposition parties staged demonstrations in Dhaka yesterday as part of their campaign to end martial rule and restore democracy. About 10,000 people marched through the streets of Dhaka raising slogans against the 4-year-old military rule.

MALDIVES

UAE Paper: President Hails Relations With Arabs

GF301932 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 30 Jan (WAKH) — President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives hailed the close ties linking his country to the Arab and Islamic worlds in general and the Arab Gulf states in particular. He noted such relations date back eight centuries before the spread of Islam in the Maldives Islands.

In an interview with UAE *AL-ITTIHAD* newspaper today, the president expressed his appreciation for the Arab aid that has contributed in developing his country. "The UAE has contributed in establishing the international airport in Maldives and is contributing in other projects related to fishery, wealth and tourism," he added.

President Gayoom reiterated his country's support and solidarity with the Palestinian cause saying it has been "made clear in all international forums including the UN, the non-aligned conference and the Islamic Conference Organisation". He also expressed regret over the deteriorating Arab and Muslim situation and called for the restoration of the "glory of Islam."

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Seeks Military Solution to Terrorism

BK301113 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] President J.R. Jayewardene has told the Indian high commissioner in Sri Lanka, J.N. Dixit, that he would seek a military solution to terrorism and a political solution to the ethnic problem.

The statement was made to the high commissioner when he met President Jayewardene on Monday to convey the Indian government's concern over Mr Jayewardene's comment to the special correspondent, Kuldip Nayar, of Sri Lanka's English-language daily *THE ISLAND*.

President Jayewardene is reported to have told Mr Nayar in an interview that he shall have a military solution to what he believed is a military problem. After doing so, he has said, he would tackle the political side.

Government Responds to TULF Proposals on Ethnic Issue

BK311244 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] Sri Lanka has conveyed its response to the proposal of the Tamil United Liberation Front for a negotiated settlement of the ethnic problem to the Government of India. Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumdar, understands that this may help the foreign secretary, Mr Romesh Bhandari, to exchange views with the Tamil groups before he reaches Colombo on Monday for talks with the Sri Lankan leaders.

Further Reportage on Curfew in Plantation Areas

HK300526 Hong Kong AFP in English 0449 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Excerpts] Colombo, Jan 30 (AFP) — A 36-hour curfew clamped on violence-hit tea plantation areas is to be extended until Friday, a minister said today as reports spoke of two dead in the communal troubles. National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said that the curfew which ended at 7 am today was to be reimposed after a three-hour break and was likely to continue till 7 am Friday.

The government will not lift the curfew until it is certain that violance sparked off by a personal quarrel Monday in Talawakelle, in the hill country plantations area, had subsided, he told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Tea estate workers killed a policeman yesterday at Agrapatana, another plantation town, Mr. Athulathmudali said. The policeman was the second reported fatality in three days of violence which spread to several plantation areas as a quarrel between a Sinhala shop owner and an Indian Tamil customer blew up into communal clashes.

Mr Athulathmudali met with representatives of plantation trade unions, management and other state officials yesterday to find ways to end the violence which also caused at least 25,000 workers to stay away from plucking tea and other estates duties.

Meanwhile, Paraliament here was today due to begin debate on a special bill to give Sri Lankan citizenship to an additional 94,000 Indian Tamil plantation workers now regarded as stateless as they did not volunteer to return to India under two agreements between the neighbouring states. Under these agreements Sri Lanka has already agreed to absorb 375,000 persons.

President Junius Jayewardene said yesterday that the constitutional court had found that the bill did not violate the Constitution. The bill is opposed by some opposition parties and sections of the Buddhist clergy.

Security Forces Capture Weapons in Tricomalee

BK301108 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] In a highly successful operation which commenced at dawn yesterday at Sambur in Tricomalee in the northeast,

security forces captured a valuable haul of weapons and other military items from the terrorists. The (?land-based) raid on the terrorists was in retaliation for several acts of violence committed by the terrorists.

Reports say that a shootout had taken place between the security forces and the terrorists.

A Sinhalese member of the terrorist group, the People's Liberation Organization of Tamil Eelam, known by the name of Ududaragay Henry Perera, who escaped from prison a few weeks age, was captured by the police yesterday. According to LANKA PUWATH, the suspect told the police that he had planned to go to Jaffna by train yesterday and proceed to Tamil Nadu by boat with the help of the northern terrorists. He was arrested on a tip-off received by the National Bureau of Investigation.

Friday Imam Urges OPEC Unity To Defeat U.S. 'Plot'

LD311211 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] On the eve of Yum Allah [God's Day], the anniversary of the imam of the ummah's return to the Islamic homeland 1 February 1979, and the start of the 10 Days of Dawn, our Muslim compatriots throughout the country observed the politico-religious Friday prayers ceremonies today.

The citizens of Tehran, who filled Tehran University compound and surrounding thoroughfares, performed the Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani, in the presence of foreign guests to the 10 Days of Dawn, the ad-interim Tehran Friday imam referred to the anniversary of the return of the imam of the ummah to the country as the prelude to the victory of the Islamic revolution. He said: It is thanks to the imam's firm faith, his reliance upon God, and the people's courage and self-sacrifice that today we see God's blessings bestowed upon us.

He then referred to the new conspiracy hatched by superpowers and their agents in bringing down oil prices, and said: In order to neutralize this conspiracy, OPEC members and other oil-exporting countries should respond positively to the Islamic Republic's call, maintain stable oil prices and, by stabilizing the production ceiling, confront the Western plot, led by world-devouring America. If these countries resist they can rest assured that Western world devourers will be defeated. This will not be achieved except through cooperation and coordination among OPEC members.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani stressed: If America and other world devourers imagine that the conspiracy can have any impact on the issue of the war imposed on Iran by Iraq, they are gravely mistaken. The youngsters who are going to the battlefronts with such enthusiasm and ardor will not be frightened by a reduction in oil prices, just as economic problems and difficulties have no influence on them. That conspiracy is, therefore, a satanic and cunning plot, and at the same time, amateurish.

In conclusion, the ad-interim Tehran Friday imam paid tribute to Mirza Shirazi on the anniversary of his death for the distinguished clergyman's endeavors.

Larijani Begins Tour of Oil-Producing Countries

LD301803 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister in charge of international and commercial affairs Javad Larijani Thursday started a tour of Libya, Algeria, Venezuela and Mexico. Following the recent oil price cuts and to discuss other OPEC issues, Iran has decided to despatch delegations to a number of oil producing countries.

The deputy foreign minister is carrying separate messages from President "Ali Khamene'i for the four heads of state.

Larijani in his meeting with officials of these countries will outline Iran's stance on needs for further unity among OPEC members and will encourage them to cut their oil production to foil plots to reduce the oil prices.

Further Reportage on Islamic Thought Conference

Fadlallah, Others Address Meeting

LD301847 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] On the 2d day of the fourth Islamic Thought Conference, held in Tehran and attended by 530 Islamic thinkers and intellectuals, Hojjat ol-Eslam Ja'far Sobhani in a speech discussed legislation under Islamic government and conditions for legislation under Islam.

Then, Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayid Muhammad Bakr al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI], said that explaining the foundations of Islamic government to world Muslims and exchanging views and ideas by Islamic ulema is of tremendous importance.

He added: Iran's Islamic revolution ever since its victory has been attacked by the arrogant forces. However, Muslims and meek nations have riveted their eyes on Iran's Islamic revolution, as indeed Iran's Islamic revolution constitutes the hope of the deprived nations of the world.

According to a Central News Unit correspondent's report, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Friday imam of Al-Rida Mosque in Beirut was the third speaker. Referring to the roots of power in Islamic government he said: We consider Islam's power as lying in its ability to confront deviant intellectual trends. We have faith in eternal divine power and believe that existing problems and obstacles to the path of disseminating Islamic thoughts could be solved through reliance on God.

Continuing today's session Jawad Jamil, the Iraqi poet, recited a poetic excerpt likening the struggles of Iraqi Mojahedin against the Saddam regime to those of Bani Hashim [the Prophet's family and scions].

Then SAIRI spokesman Sayid Mahmud al-Hashimi, the fourth speaker, spoke on government in accordance with the Islamic Shari'a.

The fifth speaker during this morning's session was Professor Munir Shafiq, director of the center that plans and reviews Palestinian affairs, who spoke about Islamic government and the manner in which that government deals with Muslims.

During today's session the establishment of three committees for working out the articles of the conference resolution was announced by Mr Jannati, conference chairman. The committee members were then introduced. According to this report, in the first committee the members would debate and study the issues of Islamic government and the problem of leadership, the tasks and aims of Islamic government and its administrative organization, the nation's role in an Islamic government and the sources

of power in Islamic government. The second committee would consider the unity of Islamic government in Islamic territories or the possibility of a plurality in such a government, the manner of legislation in Islamic government and Iran's Islamic government as constituting the present reality of the Islamic world. The third committee would deal with political issues aimed at drafting the resolution of the fourth Conference on Islamic Thought.

Lebanon's Shams al-Din Comments on Israeli Aims

LD302201 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy speaker of the Supreme Assembly of Lebanese Shi'ites, who is in Tehran to take part in the international Conference on Islamic Thought, gave a press, radio, and television conference in which he answered questions put to him by correspondents.

In reply to a question about Israel's purpose in its sporadic attacks against southern Lebanon, he said: Israel's attacks are not limited to southern Lebanon. It attacks all of Lebanon and Lebanon is part of the region as a whole. Therefore, Israel's purpose is to create tension in the region and to disrupt people's unity in order to make them surrender. He added: Israel has been seriously following other objectives including political and economic domination, dividing Lebanon to various groups such as Sunnis, Shi'ites, Druze, and controlling the Al-Litani River. Shaykh Shams al-Din added: Another dangerous aim pursued by Israel is to create a balance between Muslims and Christians by killing and expelling Muslims from Lebanon.

Commenting on the present regime in Lebanon, he said: The present regime will not last long, that is why we would like this imposed regime to be dismantled and to be replaced by another based on majority vote.

Commentary Views Murphy's Talks With Peres, Husayn

GF301955 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1830 GMT 28 Jan 86

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States Is After a Second Camp David"]

[Excerpt] Dear listeners. After a long period of time, the United States has again taken up the question of peace in the Middle East and seeks to achieve a second Camp David agreement with the participation of King Husayn of Jordan. As part of the new instructions, Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, met Prime Minister Shim'on Peres in the Hague and London four times on the question of the so-called Middle East peace. He also met King Husayn in London twice on the same matter.

Replying to questions put to him by a BBC television correspondent after one of his long talks with Richard Murphy, Prime Minister Peres said important progress had been achieved through Richard Murphy's mediation for direct talks with King Husayn. Observers watching Middle East developments, however, believe that the approach made once again on the question of peace in the Middle East by the United States and the Zionist Israeli regime is linked with a number of objectives. A number of these objectives are as follows:

1. The broadening of the sphere of the Camp David accords and the rescuing of the shaken Husni Mubarak regime from its difficult situation and isolation by persuading King Husayn to hold direct talks with Israel;
2. Rendering ineffective the results of the talks King Husayn has had with the other Jordanian leaders whom he assured he would not hold direct talks with the Tel Aviv regime;
3. Diverting world attention from the silent stance adopted by the Arab regimes, which are dependent on the United States, concerning the question of diplomatic relations between Spain and the aggressive Zionist Israeli regime, the vetoing of the declaration submitted to the UN Security Council on Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon by the U.S. representative, and the Zionist sacrilege committed against the sacred places in Jerusalem and Hebron.

Observers believe that in the event the United States succeeds in achieving its objectives, the [words indistinct] and the joint strategy pursued by Washington and Israel to create divisions and clashes among the Arabs to obstruct a united Arab front against Israel would further approach the point of success.

New Envoy Holds Meeting with French Foreign Minister

LD302131 Tehran IRNA in English 1813 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Paris, Jan, 30, IRNA — Iran's new charge d'affaires to Paris Gholam Reza Haddadi Wednesday discussed bilateral relations as well as Iran-France financial disputes, with French Minister for External Relations Ronald Dumas here.

The main difference between the two countries is a one billion dollar loan granted to France by the former regime. France has so far refused to pay back the loan. Observers believe that the French Government intends to solve the problem quickly and improve its relations with Iran. Jacques Martin, the French envoy who visited Iran early January has been assigned to solve the problem.

An Iranian delegation from Atomic Energy Organization is to visit France in a near future to continue negotiations on this matter.

France's military aid to the Iraqi regime and its sheltering of counterrevolutionary Iranians are among other factors straining Tehran-Paris relations.

Kurds Attack Iraqi Posts Following Comrades' Deaths

LD301359 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, following the Iraqi regime's execution of 52 Muslims in Mosul accused of Islamic activities and of refusing to go to the warfronts to fight against the Islamic Republic of Iran, groups of Kurdish Muslim revolutionaries simultaneously attacked three Iraqi military

bases in the city of Mosul, delivering heavy blows at the bases and succeeding in capturing large quantities of arms.

Reports reaching the Central News Unit say that another group of Kurdish Muslim revolutionaries, in an attack on Ahmadabad garrison in northern Iraq, inflicted heavy losses on the forces of the Iraqi regime, following which agents of the Saddam rgime closed the Shurnah highway in the Khurmal region and opened fire on the traffic. One person was martyred and a number of others were captured.

Another group of Kurdish Muslim fighters, by attacking 'Agrah military garrison, killed five troops of the Iraqi regime and then returned safely to their bases.

The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq [SAIRI] announced: Despite large-scale efforts by the Saddam regime aimed at controlling the situation in northern Iraq and intensifying the suppression and intimidation of Muslims, the regions concerned remain an arena for increasing desertions by the Iraqi military who seek asylum with the Kurdish Muslim forces.

According to the same report, pressure on and the encirclement of the cities of Qarah Dagh, (Shahr-i Zor) and (Bizan) continue.

Irbil Area Attacked

GF310752 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Jan 86

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has reported that on 28 January the Muslim Iraqi Kurdish fighters used heavy weapons to attack positions of the Ba'thist forces in the strategic areas of (Marjsur) and (Qalandar) mountain in the Governorate of Irbil. They destroyed some Saddamist positions and killed several Saddamists.

In these operations the Iraqi Kurdish fighters succeeded in exercising control over two strategic positions and also captured two mountain positions.

The commander of the successful operation, Wadi' Salih, was martyred while carrying out his combat duties.

Islamic Guards Corp To Hold War Game

LD301729 Tehran IRNA in English 1650 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 30, IRNA — Forty divisions of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and Basij volunteer forces will carry out a war game throughout Tehran Province on the occasion of the ten-day-dawn (Feb. 1-11), marking the seventh anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Speaking at a press conference here Thursday, an IRGC commander, Br. Ansari said the maneuvers aimed at demonstrating the combat strength of the Islamic Revolution and to display the presence of the organized popular forces in the scene of the revolution. The IRGC commander also referred to the maneuvers as a means of encouragement for the Iranian people and of intimidation for global arrogance.

He said other programs to be held by the IRGC personnel and Basij volunteer forces on the occasion will include a cultural-sports festival, climbing the 57,00-meter Damavand Peak, exhibition at Behesht-e-Zahra Cemetery and a shooting contest.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,366

LD301632 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 30 Jan 86

[Text] Tehran, Jan 30, IRNA — Iran's Muslim combatants despatched reconnaissance patrols and pounded Iraqi positions in the western and southern fronts Wednesday, killing or wounding at least 25 Iraqi soldiers and demolishing 10 gun emplacements, according to the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces here Thursday.

In its Communique number 2366, the command says that Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Wednesday killed or wounded a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroyed several of their bunkers as well as light and heavy vehicles. Their artillery fire too was silenced by Iranian combatants.

All aerial violations of Iraqi war planes throughout the fronts Wednesday were thwarted by Iranian anti-aircraft units, according to the military communique.

The communique says Iranian Muslim forces checked movements of Iraqi vehicles as well as other Iraqi engineering and combat operations throughout the fronts Wednesday, minimizing their facilities and preventing their tactical movements.

Iranian artillery fire pounded an Iraqi patrol unit in areas overlooking Khorramshahr Wednesday forcing them to flee, reports the joint staff.

Meanwhile, Iraqi forces continued shelling the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr, both in Khuzestan Province Wednesday.